

~~a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles;~~

~~a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and~~

~~a processor programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in a predetermined manner in response to a determination that a bill meets a stranger bill criterion and in response to a determination that a bill meets a no call bill criterion, and wherein a bill which meets the stranger bill criterion is termed a stranger bill, and wherein a bill which meets the no call bill criterion is termed a no call bill.~~

257. The currency evaluation device of claim 256 wherein the currency bills comprise United States currency and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

258. The currency evaluation device of claim 256 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

259. The currency evaluation device of claim 256 wherein the transport mechanism is adapted to transport and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute.

260. The currency evaluation device of claim 256 wherein the device is adapted to permit manual removal of a no call or a stranger bill after the transport mechanism has halted.

261. The currency evaluation device of claim 260 further comprising a key adapted to restart the operation of the device after the transport mechanism has halted.--

REMARKS

The Applicants have added new claims 164-261 and cancelled claims 2-163 without prejudice. Attached hereto under the caption, "Clean Copy of Pending Claims after Entry of

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Preliminary Amendment Mailed December 21, 2001," is a clean copy of the pending claims after entry of the present amendment.

The Applicants are including the original Declaration from Application No. 08/864,423 as Exhibit 1 to the 37 CFR § 1.63(d)(2) Statement where it was respectfully requested that three individuals be deleted as inventors. The Applicants are also including a Submission of Supplemental Declaration from Application No. 09/542,487 executed by the inventors of the present application.

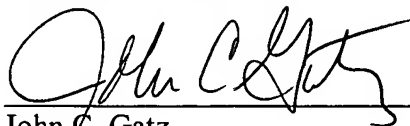
The Applicants have also enclosed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) in which the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make these references of record.

Conclusion

The Applicants believe that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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